

# Morning

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# Astorian.

COVERS THE MORNING FIELD ON THE LOWER COLUMBIA

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## JAPS PRESS ON

## Port Arthur Almost In the Mikado's Hands.

## LOSS OF LIFE IS GREAT

## Chefoo Correspondent Says 15,000 Perished in 24 Hours Fierce Fighting.

## RUSSIANS ARE STILL HOPEFUL

## St. Petersburg Discredits the Report of the Capture of 300 Meter Hill and Hopes for Much From the Approaching Squadron.

London, Dec. 2.—The correspondent at Chefoo for the Daily Telegraph says the attack on 300-Meter hill resulted in very heavy losses for the first division of the Japanese stormers. Simultaneously with the assault on the hill, the correspondent says, the men of the ninth and eleventh divisions advanced and menaced Pihlung and Kekwan forts, and the fighting was heavy, with considerable Jap losses there by gun fire from the forts.

According to the dispatch quoted, the loss to the Japanese in the last 24 hours has been terrible, a total of 15,000 men having given up their lives in the attempt on the hill. Attacks have been planned up to December 10, by which time the Japanese forts hope to complete the capture of Port Arthur.

## Russians Hopeful.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 1.—The war office here is not yet prepared to accept the report that the Japanese before Port Arthur have taken 203-Meter hill, but if it is officially confirmed, the war office admits that it will be a desperate blow for the gallant defenders of the fortress. The position commands the harbor and, if the Japanese can mount siege guns on its summit they can force out the Russian squadron or destroy it at its anchorage.

Those familiar with the supporting plans of the forts think it is by no means certain that even though Russians are forced to retire from 203-Meter hill, the Japanese can place in position heavy guns against the fire which the other forts can bring to bear on it. Still, the war office officials reluctantly agree that such a breach in the chain renders the position extremely critical, and though the garrison might be able to hold out in the Golden Hill, Tigers Hill and Liao Tai forts for some time, it may mark the beginning of the end.

The war office is convinced that with the approach of the Russian second Pacific squadron the Japanese considered that the elimination of the Port Arthur squadron as a fighting factor was absolutely vital, thus accounting for the reckless sacrifice of life in order to secure a position directly commanding the harbor.

## Japanese Cheered.

Tokio Dec. 1. (noon).—General Nog's telegram announcing the storming and capture of 203 Meter hill was received with cheers by the Japanese people. It revives the hope of an early capture of Port Arthur proper. The people have never despaired of the success of the besiegers, but the fortitude of the defenders and the prolongation of the siege which exceeds by months the most liberal preliminary estimate of the time required to accomplish the reduction of this strong hold has been a source of deep regret, combined with the loss of life and disappointments over the fact that the siege has occupied such a large force of men, decreasing Field Marshal Oyama's strength at a time when he needed every available man.

## Conscripts Leaving.

Today was the date set under the conscription act, when recruits, could join the army. Cheered by the news from General Nog, thousands of recruits throughout the empire marched to barracks and donned uniforms for the first time. Following an honored custom the relatives of the recruits,

and banners, escorted the new soldiers to their barracks. In Tokio today there have been scores of little processions escorting detachments of popular conscripts.

The number of men who have joined the colors today under the conscription act has not been made public.

## NISSEN'S BODY IS FOUND.

### Adventurer's Body Washed in With His Craft on Lake Shore.

Stevensville, Mich., Dec. 1.—Peter Nissen, who started across Lake Michigan in his aquatic balloon Fool-killer No. 3, and concerning whose fate there has been much anxiety, was found dead on the beach three miles west of this place today, probably having washed ashore after the night.

The well named Fool-killer was about 20 rods further down the beach from where the body laid, and was badly wrecked.

Nissen's hands and face were frozen, and the features reflect the great suffering endured by the inventor before death came to his relief. The clothing on the body is much torn.

It is thought Nissen could not have been long dead when found, and it is practically certain he reached shore alive late last evening as the Fool-killer was seen about 200 rods from shore six miles south of here about 4 o'clock, though a gale was blowing and it may be he was unable to make shore and tossed about in the water all night. When the Fool-killer finally collapsed it is likely Nissen was so thoroughly chilled that he was unable to save himself and was drowned.

Later—When the wrecked aquatic balloon was carefully examined one of Nissen's business cards was found pinned to the back saying the air hose upon which he depended for renewing the supply of air broke and he felt himself doomed to die of suffocation.

## DERELICT IS ASHORE

## Barkentine "Quickstep" Comes In at Yaquina Head Yesterday.

## WAS A MENACE TO SHIPPING

## Heavy Seas May Break Up the Hull and Render the Efforts of Salvage Hunters Futile—Cargo is Lumber of Considerable Value.

Newport, Ore., Dec. 1.—The derelict barkentine Quickstep, out of Mukilteo for San Francisco, and which was abandoned in a terrific storm off Grays harbor on the evening of November 24, drifted ashore at Yaquina head, four miles north of Newport today.

The seas were running heavily, and the derelict struck the reef with a crash and her foremast was carried overboard. Great rollers continued to sweep across the reef, and, upon one of them, the barkentine cleared the rocks and was carried toward the beach. Her approach had been seen, and by the time the vessel cleared the rocks a crowd had assembled to witness the landing of the boat which has been floating a serious menace to coastwise traffic for a week.

The Quickstep belied her name as she sluggishly rode in on the combers, but seemed to come to life when her keel struck the sand, and her mainmast went overboard with a crash. Later the heavy surf removed the deck load of lumber, and carried away the deckhouse and part of the cabin, the debris of which, with the figurehead and most of the keel of the coaster is strewn along the beach.

The next flood tide, it is expected, will carry the hull high enough on the beach so that she may be boarded and a part of the cargo saved, though there is considerable danger that she may go to pieces in the meantime.

The salvage from the barkentine is considerable, and an effort will be made to secure as much of it as possible.

## Boise's Majority.

Boise, Idaho, Dec. 1.—The official count for Idaho in the presidential election gives: Roosevelt 47,783; Parker 13,480; Debs 4949; Swallow 1012; Watson 353.

## FINISH OF FAIR

## St. Louis En Masse On the Celebrated Pike.

## SCENE ONE OF BEAUTY

## Death of the Festivities Told at Midnight and the Lights Went Out.

## SPEECHES BY CELEBRITIES

## Pike Was Crowded by a Great Throng of Revellers Who Waited Until Midnight Darkened the Last of Electric Illuminations.

St. Louis, Dec. 1.—The Louisiana purchase exposition passed into history today with the closing exercises which were held at the foot of the Louisiana purchase monument, where seven months ago the exercises were observed that formally opened the gates to the world.

The man most prominent in the immense labor that has attended the conception, birth and life of the great fair is undoubtedly President Francis of the board of managers, and the spirit that has characterized the work of all the managers is well depicted in his observation today that: "This exposition has been the work of my life. It has been a pleasure to me," and Mr. Francis' efforts have been the basis of the pleasure that has attended the millions of visitors who have threaded their way through the gates.

The exhibits now closed probably comprised the most comprehensive collection of the works of art and industry ever seen in the world's history, while the gathering of tribes, with their manners and customs has never been equalled in the history of the "two and seventy jarring sects."

The principal speeches at the observance of the close were by Governor Dockery of Missouri and President Francis of the board of managers. Mayor Wells also spoke briefly.

Promptly at 4 o'clock the doors of all the great halls were closed, and visitors were excluded, but as night drew on, throngs congregated on the broad avenues to view, for the last time, the magnificent electric illuminations.

On the pike, however, all was revelry, and passing tides of happy humanity swept from end to end, and, despite the feeling of sadness that the great show was passing away there has been no livelier scene during the fair than that on the great cosmopolitan pleasure ground.

Over on Agricultural knoll the great floral clock ticked off the moments of the remaining life of the pageant until at midnight rang the massive tones of a great bell.

Instantly a hush swept over the assembled thousands, and, appropriately, the glowing bulbs of the myriad electric lights slowly dimmed, dimming until but a spark of the life of the great fair remained, and the Louisiana purchase exposition faded into chronicles.

## VENEZUELA DISTURBED.

### Citizens Are Being Imprisoned for Political Offenses as Usual.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Reports reaching the state department indicate a dangerous unsettled condition in Venezuela, and the department officers are watching the situation with closest attention.

Many citizens of the principal cities have been imprisoned, and much alarm is felt among the foreign element lest some of the outrages that have characterized previous revolutions may be repeated.

## SCHOONER MISSING.

### Fate of the Seawitch With Passengers Aboard Is in Doubt.

Everett, Wash., Dec. 1.—The schooner Seawitch, which left here November 25 for Seattle with a pleas-

ure party numbering seven aboard, has not been heard from up to a late hour tonight and grave fears are entertained that she foundered during the big storm Saturday.

Captain Ramwell of the American Tug Company says he saw the schooner at Edmonds Tuesday, and there is a rumor she was sighted at Ballard, but the craft is not there yet. Those aboard were C. E. Pritchard, his wife, three daughters, and B. Starke, the owner of the boat, and a man named Spink.

## BOGUS SILVER HALF DOLLARS.

### Lot of Them Made by Counterfeiters in Ohio.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 2.—An abandoned counterfeiter's office with complete outfit for the making of spurious silver half dollars has been discovered in a thicket of Bullitt park. In all, fifteen dies were secured, together with a quantity of supplies. Memoranda found with the tools show that approximately 14,000 were made before the camp was located, on which the counterfeiters figured to realize a profit of about 95 per cent. Investigation proves that the operators disguised themselves as women and so avoided suspicion.

## Civil Service Extended.

Washington, Dec. 3.—President Roosevelt has issued an order amending the civil service rules so as to include within the classified service the positions of deputy collectors of customs and the chief collector at each sub-port. Future appointments must therefore be based upon competitive examinations. The order affects about 400 positions.

## Today's Weather.

Western Oregon and Washington—Friday partly cloudy; eastern Oregon and eastern Washington—generally fair.

## CHINESE MONOPOLY

## Portland Firms Furnish Labor for Alaska Canneries.

## THEY MAKE GOOD WAGES

## Chinese Exclusion Act Makes Chinese Wages Higher and a Demand for Labor.

Chinese labor in salmon canneries is no longer to be classed as cheap labor, according to the managers of large plants. White labor can be employed at as low cost as Mongolian, these employers say, and the reason that Chinese labor is used is because the large firms having their headquarters in Portland have the packing industry reduced to scientific handling and can be relied upon implicitly to fulfill their obligations.

San Francisco packers operating canneries in Bristol bay fisheries district and in other parts of Alaska rely entirely upon Portland for their labor. The firms in this city are now making contracts with numbers of these, and it is said to be impossible to secure this class of labor at the Bay city.

"Rigid enforcement of the Chinese exclusion laws has been restored the balance between Chinese and white labor," said the manager of a Portland firm, "and many of the Chinese laborers who went out to take care of the Alaska pack this year earned \$350 and \$400 for the season of three or four months. The average earnings for the season were probably not below \$300. That is as expensive as white labor, but the canneryman knows that he can rely upon the Chinese to perform the work without hindrance, and it would be difficult to find trained white labor familiar with all of the details of putting up the fish."

"There was a time when San Francisco packers could secure an abundance of Chinese labor without leaving home, but Portland now has a monopoly on that business, and it is significant of the fact that this city is one of the greatest centers of the salmon industry of the world. Local labor is used for the fisheries of the Sacramento river, which, however, represents only a small part of the investment of California capital in the business, for, by far the larger part of that controlled by San Francisco, is the Alaska canneries."

## TOOLS TIGHTEN

## Land Frauds Case Growing More Dramatic.

## OPINION OF AN EXPERT

## McKinley Is Accused of Forging Young Woman Stenographer's Handwriting in Papers.

## COURT RULES OUT EVIDENCE

## Miss Ware is Accused of Complicity With McKinley in Writing the Papers Which Form Government's Evidence.

Portland, Dec. 1.—The trial of the land fraud cases that is the result of the attempt to stop the acquirement of the public domain by sharpers and non-bona fide settlers, was resumed this morning in the federal court, and a large part of the morning was given to the testimony of Hand Writing Expert J. P. Marshall. The witness said he was unable to state whether the signatures of Mattie S. Lowell and Marie Ware were written by the same hand, but he was strongly of the opinion that the body of the papers in the Lowell case were in the handwriting of Miss Ware.

In the Graham, Pettis and Potter cases, the expert gave it as his opinion that the papers in evidence were written by McKinley and Miss Ware, and that the work was a mere imitation of the handwriting of Miss McCoy, the stenographer for the abstract company.

The attorneys for the government attempted to introduce a specimen of Miss McCoy's handwriting, whereupon a hot discussion ensued, which ended in a ruling by the court excluding such testimony.

Marshall was allowed to testify as to his opinion that the George A. Howe relinquishment, which was the bone of contention yesterday, was written and signed by H. G. McKinley, but the letter from Puter to Edwin Hobson, tending to show a business intimacy between Puter and McKinley was ruled out by the court on technical grounds.

## FRESHMEN ASSESSED.

### Dean Wright Takes a Fall Out of Roistering Students.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 1.—Dean Wright of the academic department of Yale university has ordered the members of the freshman class to pay an assessment of 20 cents each to be used to pay the expenses incurred by the city park commissioner in cleaning East park after the recent freshman celebration. Signs on the fences in the neighborhood were disfigured, and the class signs and numerals painted on the face of a lofty cliff, disfiguring its natural beauty.

## DIAZ INAUGURATED.

### Mexican President's Seventh Term Starts with National Merrymaking.

City of Mexico, Dec. 1.—The inauguration of General Porfirio Diaz, as president of the republic of Mexico for the seventh time, and Senor Don Ramon Corral, as first vice president, took place in the hall of the chamber of deputies under most auspicious circumstances.

At sunrise today all the artillery stationed in the federal district and also the infantry here and at barracks throughout the republic fired a presidential salute, and flags were hoisted over all public buildings.

The principal streets and edifices and residences were decorated profusely with arches and national flags, freely interspersed with the flags of foreign nations. One of the features of the street decorations were two allegorical arches over the Paso de la Reforma, the principal street of the capital, representing "peace" and "glory." There was a huge procession, made up of thousands of federal troops, the reserves, bands, societies, political or-

ganizations and many prominent personages, including the governors of the states comprised in the union.

The procession marched to the hall of congress, where, amid great enthusiasm, the president and vice president were formally notified of their election and took the oath of allegiance. After an exchange of felicitations between the president and the governors, the foreign diplomatic representatives and the prominent citizens who had received invitations, went to a reviewing stand, where they witnessed the passing of the procession en route to the castle of Chapultepec, where it was disbanded.

The day was devoted to field sports and merry-making. Tonight there was music on the various plazas by military bands and an inaugural ball, to which over 1000 persons were present.

## CAPTAIN IS DROWNED.

### Mate Nearly Loses His Life in an Attempt to Save the Master.

Aberdeen, Wash., Dec. 1.—Captain Albert Johnson of the schooner Chas. H. Wilson, from San Francisco, was washed overboard and drowned off Grays Harbor yesterday.

The sea was running very high, and, though a boat was launched and life preservers thrown the drowning man he could not be saved. When the boat tried to reach the place where the captain was last seen the boat swamped, and the mate nearly drowned before the crew was rescued.

## News Changes Hands.

The Evening News announces a change of management. Mr. Edgar W. Stahl and P. B. Sovey having acquired an interest in the publication. Both gentlemen are newspaper men of experience and will endeavor to make the News the leading evening paper of the city. There is certainly room for a live, progressive evening daily, and the News will no doubt fill this field.

## MURDERER IS KILLED

## Author of Alvarado Horror Falls a Victim of Sheriff.

## FELL WHILE FIRING AT POSSE

## For Hours the Crazy Man Kept the Posse at Bay by Sheltering Himself Behind His Daughter, Who Escapes Unhurt.

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 1.—The sequel to the tragedy that cost the lives of Steve McKinley, his father and a hired man on their farm near Alvarado Tuesday came today. J. M. Williams, the triple murderer barricaded himself in his home and defied the officers. He sent word to his daughter, the widowed bride of the man that he had murdered, that if she did not come to him he would kill her. She went fearfully to the house, where she found her father armed with a Winchester and in a frenzy of rage. The officers were afraid to fire into the house for fear of killing some member of Williams' family, whom he held prisoners there to shield him. All night the officers watched from the McKinley home, where the bodies of the men killed by Williams lay. Finally the murderer seated himself by a window, and fell asleep. The widowed bride stole from the house and fled to the home where the husband's body lay, and officers were watching for an opportunity to make the murderer a prisoner.

As soon as the posse learned Williams was alone they opened fire on the house. He was not slow in returning it. Finally the crack of his rifle ceased and upon investigation the sheriff found the murderer lying on the floor with a bullet through his brain.

## MARKETS

Liverpool—December wheat 7s 3-5d. New York—Silver 59 3-8c; Union Pacific 115 1-4; preferred, 95 1-4. Chicago—December wheat opened at \$1.05 3-8@1/2; closed \$1.08; barley 42 1/2@50; flax \$1.11; northwestern \$1.19. San Francisco—Cash wheat \$1.50. Portland—Export, Walla Walla, 80; bluestem 55; milling, Walla Walla, 83; bluestem 53; valley 87 1/2; eastern market basis, Walla Walla, 85; bluestem, 90.